

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 SSM-03 IO-13 /078 W
-----170117Z 019519 /12

R 161427Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3104
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3085

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SY US
SUBJ: LOCAL REACTIONS TO CARTER-ASSAD TALKS

1. IMPRESSIONS WE HAVE OBTAINED FROM INDIVIDUAL SYRIANS REFLECT APPARENTLY WIDELY-HELD ASSESSMENT THAT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND ASSAD WENT WELL IN GENEVA. MFA WEST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR JOUAYJATI TOLD DCM THAT "THE MEETING WAS PERFECT." HE SAID MFA DEPARTMENT HEADS HAD BEEN BRIEFED LAST WEEK AND TOLD THAT SYRIA WAS VERY PLEASED WITH OUTCOME OF MEETING. ACCORDING TO JOUAYJATI, SYRIANS WERE CONVINCED OF PRES. CARTER'S AND SECRETARY VANCE'S "HONESTY AND SINCERITY." BRIEFER HAD ADDED CAUTIONARY NOTE THAT, OF COURSE, SYRIA DID NOT KNOW WHAT WOULD COME OF IT.

2. SYRIAN MEMBERS OF THE ENTOURAGE DAOUDY AND DEPFONMIN KHANI TOLD AMBASSADOR SEPARATELY OF SYRIAN PLEASURE OVER ATMOSPHERICS, AND GAVE CARTER HIGH MARKS FOR HIS EVIDENT SINCERITY AND DETERMINATION. GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCH
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ELIAS IV ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY CARTER'S EVIDENT COMMITMENT TO WORKING FOR PEACE.

3. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST WHO ACCOMPANIED DELEGATION AND RETURNED ON PRES. AL-ASSAD'S AIRCRAFT TOLD US THAT THOSE ON PLANE SHARED A SENSE OF OPTIMISM THAT PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE IN VIEW OF "NEW" AMERICAN ATTITUDES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE SYRIAN MEDIA WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE
TT REMIND READERS OF OBSTACLES IN WAY OF ADVANCING PEACE
PROCESS, GENEVA TALKS HAVE INJECTED NEW SENSE OF
HOPE INTO LOCAL POLITICAL COMMUNITY.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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